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MISCELLANEOUS.

PRIZE QUESTION.

To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.

Gentlemen,—Having met with the following announcement in the 'Repertorium der gesammten Deutschen Literatur,' No. XVII. September Heft, 1840, and thinking it might be interesting to some of your readers, I have transmitted it for publication in the Annals.

"The Royal Academy of Berlin wishes that experiments be instituted for the purpose of ascertaining, if only in one plant, in what the physical and chemical effects of the mineral constituents and salts which plants derive from the earth during the process of development consist. The inquiry to be conducted with a special regard both to the substances formed by the decaying parts of the plant and to those excreted by the roots; the object of the whole being to elucidate the question of the conversion of the constituents of the soil, as clay, gypsum, &c., into the structure of the plant." A prize of 300 Thalers (45*l.*) will be awarded to the best paper on this subject which may be written in the German, French, or Latin languages, and must be sent in before the 31st of March 1841. The awarding of the prize to be made in July. Each paper must be accompanied by a motto upon a sealed envelope bearing the writer's name.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

Edwin Lankester, M.D.

Campsall, Feb. 27, 1840.

BOTTLE-NOSED WHALE.

The following detailed account of one of the *Hyperoodons* noticed in the Annals for February last, has been communicated to me by Mr. Henry Johnson, Royal Institution, Liverpool.—Wm. Thompson.

Belfast, May 4, 1840.

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Liverpool, April 25, 1840."

REMARKABLE CHANGE OF HABIT IN THE HARE.

My dear Lord,—I send you the story of the Hares I told at Florence-court; Major Bingham is the proprietor alluded to, and my father related the story in a Lecture for the Zoological Society 'On the Instinct of Animals.'

Most truly yours,

To the Earl of Enniskillen. S. G. Otway.

April 22, 1840.

"A considerable landed proprietor has a large tract of sand hills within the Mullet, which tract (open as it is to all the Atlantic storms) has been found to have been greatly impaired by the introduction of rabbits, who by their burrowing and disturbing the bent

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